

# Charting A Course For A Career In Nursing

**Special To The Post**  
 RALEIGH - Carol Caulder, Rena Mills and Mary Wright have several things in common. They are in their 30s, married and have children.

But each has followed a different route toward a career in nursing. "In the community college system," says Jeanne Boykin, chairperson of nursing at Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, "we supply the road map, but our students have to make the journey."

Caulder is a student in the associate degree nursing program at College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City. Mills is in the practical nursing program at Wayne and Wright is enrolled in the nursing education option program at Wake Technical College in Raleigh.

All three women are representative of students found in community college system nursing programs—to a certain extent. They tend to be older and to have more family commitments than do their counterparts in four-year college or university-based programs. But it is difficult to classify community college system nursing students.

They vary in age from 18 to 50, are from various ethnic and racial groups and are single or married, male or female. But most seem to share one purpose or goal—to help people.

"Nursing was a lifetime dream for me," said Caulder, a mother of three who entered an associate degree nursing program this fall. "My husband is a hospital administrator and he is now studying in seminary. We hope to go into the mission field together, with me as a nurse and with him as a hospital administrator."

The associate degree nursing program is one of three programs in the community college system that train persons for jobs in the

nursing profession. The ADN program, which takes six to eight quarters to complete, is offered at 21 institutions in the 58-campus community college system. The program trains persons to become registered nurses.

Caulder's reason for choosing College of the Albemarle's nursing program are typical of those of prospective nurses who elect to study at a community college rather than a four-year institution. Marriage, family and expense are major factors in the decision to go to a community college.

"Cost is a factor. The education, plus the cost, is great," Caulder said.

She is not alone in considering convenience and cost. Angela White, 24, who entered College of the Albemarle's ADN nursing program in the fall, said, "I have a family. I can't afford to give up four years of my life. And it's convenient."

The length of the program and convenience of travel are deciding factors. So is the reputation of the school. Two years ago, College of the Albemarle had the only ADN program in the state in which 100 percent of its students passed the State Board of Nursing examination. (This year four out of five schools posting 100 percent passing rates on the state exam were institutions in the community college system.)

The school credits its success on the state exam to its thorough screening procedures for admission and its tough grading standards.

Wayne Community College has earned a similar reputation for its licensed practical nursing program. For the past five years, Wayne has had a 100 percent passing rate on the State Board examinations for practical nurses. In

fact, the highest and the second highest scores on the board exams in April 1981 were made by Wayne students.

The length of the program, four quarters, as

well as convenience of location, are deciding factors for many who choose to become licensed practical nurses. They are 37 practical nurses education programs in the community

college system.

"I have children and I am the head of my household. I need to work," Rena Mills said. "It's less of a course load (than the ADN program) and it takes less

time, especially with a family to take care of."

"I wanted to try the LPN first, then if I like it, go on for an associate degree in nursing," Lee said.



MRS. HAROLD WHEELER JR.  
 ...The former Miss Debra L. Kizer

## Miss Debra Lynn Kizer

## Weds Sergeant Wheeler

Debra Lynn Kizer and Sergeant Harold Wheeler Jr. were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, November 21, 4 p.m., at Parkwood Institutional CME Church.

Rev. Robert C. Mckindley Allen officiated the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Kizer of 1116 Penrose Lane. The groom is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Harold Wheeler of Waxhaw.

Providing the pre-nuptial music was organists Gloria Thompson and Mrs. Solomon. Soloists were Wilbert DeShields, Mattie Jordan and Marilyn Wheeler.

The bride was given in marriage by her father Nathaniel Kizer and wore a long white organza gown with a high neckline, fitted waist, and shepherds sleeves. The bodice, neckline and sleeves were trimmed with chantilly lace, sequins and seed pearls.

Her mantilla veil of illusion was trimmed with chantilly lace and held by a Camelot cap of chantilly lace complemented by the A-line skirt ending in a cathedral-length train.

Her bouquet consisted of white carnations accompanied by miniature burgundy carnations and a white streamer.

The maid of honor, Ms. Felicia S. Kizer, wore a long rose cranberry gown with a sheer chiffon print cape and carried a solid maroon and white carnation with a rose bow.

The bridesmaids were Lorraine Jordan, Yvonne Gordon, Sherry Wheeler, Geraldine Wheeler (both sisters of the groom), and Sharon Avant.

Christine M. Woods was the flower girl and Robert Faulkner was the ring bearer.

Ushers included Eric NCSBA Elects

Phil Berry

President

Phil Berry, Chairman of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, has been elected President of the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) for 1981-82. Berry, elected at the organization's annual convention in Wilmington this past weekend, will serve for one year.

"I hope that during my administration," Berry said "we, as a group of school board members, will be more refined in articulating the needs of public education in North Carolina to the various communities we serve."

"One of my goals," Berry continued "is to solicit more statewide involvement on the part of the member school boards. I hope to bring the association to an even better position of knowledge, interaction and legislative contact on behalf of all the young people of our great state," he concluded.

Berry, first elected to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education 1972, has served as Chairman since 1976. He holds a B.S. degree in Engineering from the University of Nebraska and is a Charlotte native.

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